

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** October 12, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on October 5, 2007

**FROM:** Ralph H. Dollhopf, Acting Division Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

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The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Reach J/K Removal Conducted (Removal Consent Orders Signed),  
Tittabawassee River Site, Midland, Michigan**

On July 12, 2007, three separate Administrative Orders on Consent (AOCs) were signed by the Regional Administrator and The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), each addressing removal of extremely elevated levels of dioxin-contaminated sediment and soil in hot spots at three locations within and along the Tittabawassee River (Reaches D, J/K, and O) near Midland, Michigan.

On August 6, 2007, the removal action at the Reach J/K site was initiated by Dow. Dow's contractor cleared large trees and vegetation along the river bank in preparation of excavating contaminated soil within the floodplain along the river. Approximately 24,000 cubic yards of dioxin-contaminated soil was transported to Dow's Salzburg Road Hazardous Waste Landfill for disposal. An additional 6,000 cubic yards of soil from the river bank was excavated and used as cover material in an upper terrace portion of the site. The site has been restored with native vegetation and over 200 large trees have been planted. An additional 200 smaller trees will be planted in late Fall after they are dormant. On October 4, 2007, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jim Augustyn conducted a final site walk through with Dow to confirm completion of all required work under the Reach J/K AOC.

Dow will submit a comprehensive final report as required by the AOC.

Contacts: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)  
Jeff Cahn (312-886-6670)  
Greg Rudloff (312-353-0455)

**Initiation of Removal Activity, Guthrie Road Drum Site, Mesick, Michigan**

On September 25, 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) initiated a fund lead removal action at the Guthrie Road Drum Site in Mesick, Wexford County, Michigan. The site is a residential property that was abandoned due to foreclosure by the bank. Several drums and containers of flammable waste were observed on site approximately 150 yards from the banks of the Manistee River, known as an important trout and salmon fishery in the Midwest. Several 55-gallon drums and 5-gallon pails of waste are being field tested and will be bulked for disposal. The cleanup is expected to be completed by mid-October 2007.

Contact: Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)

**Final Record of Decision Issued, Master Disposal Service Landfill Superfund Site, Brookfield, Wisconsin**

On September 26, 2007, the Region 5 Superfund Division issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Master Disposal Service Landfill Superfund site in Brookfield, Wisconsin. This ROD is the second and final operable unit (OU) for the site.

The 1990 source control operable unit (OU1) called for containing the waste mass by capping the landfill and installing a groundwater extraction and treatment system to remove contaminants from the shallower aquifers. As part of this interim remedy, no groundwater cleanup levels were imposed, but monitoring the water budget to prevent dewatering of environmentally significant wetlands was critical. After 6.5 years of groundwater treatment without damage to the wetlands, only benzene is not below its Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

The final groundwater remedy (OU2) prescribes monitored natural attenuation (MNA) with contingent groundwater extraction and treatment. The remedy is based on clear evidence that MNA has and will continue to successfully restore groundwater at the

site. The final remedy also sets forth groundwater cleanup levels, as well as criteria for re-commissioning the onsite pump and treatment system should monitoring indicate a potential failure of the remedy. No private or public water supplies have been or are expected to be affected by the site or the remedy.

Contact: Sheila Sullivan (312-886-5251)

**Five-Year Review Report Completed, Long Prairie Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site, Long Prairie, Minnesota**

On September 21, 2007, the Region 5 Superfund Division issued the second Five-Year Review Report for the Long Prairie Groundwater Contamination Superfund site in Long Prairie, Minnesota. The source of groundwater contamination was a former dry-cleaning facility. Several City wells became contaminated and two separate Health Advisories were issued by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to prevent ingestion of groundwater. The site cleanup consisted of three operable units (OUs). Since 1997, OU1 has addressed the groundwater contamination via extraction and treatment with granular activated carbon. Under OU2, a soil vapor extraction system was used to treat the back lot source area (cleanup goals were met and the system was dismantled in 2000). Under OU3, residences using private wells within the Health Advisory areas were connected to the municipal water system (completed in 1996). Institutional controls (ICs) have been implemented by the MDH through Health Advisory Areas and a Special Well Construction Area that prohibits the installation of new wells in the affected area.

The five-year review determined that the site is currently protective of human health and the environment. Long-term protectiveness requires compliance with effective ICs. The current ICs will be evaluated to determine their effectiveness. A long term stewardship of the site strategy will be developed.

Contact: Sheila Sullivan (312-886-5251)

**TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

**Participation, PREP Tabletop Exercise, Port Huron, Michigan**

On September 28, 2007, On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) Jeff Kimble and Brian Schlieger participated in a National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Tabletop Exercise in Port Huron,

Michigan. The Exercise was cosponsored by the St. Clair County Emergency Management Department, Detroit Energy (DTE), and the U.S. Coast Guard. Approximately 22 players from various local, State, Provincial, and Federal agencies participated. Participants included U.S. EPA, Environment Canada, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard, and 51st Civil Support Team, as well as several local emergency responders and St. Clair County emergency managers. The scenario simulated an accidental release of petroleum from a pipeline near the St. Clair River in Marysville, Michigan. The area impacted by the scenario consisted primarily of Marysville and the St. Clair River, which is the border between Canada and the United States. Simulated response actions focused on coordination of international, Federal, State, and local efforts within the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS).

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 Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)

#### **Review of Tribal Emergency Response Plan, Chicago, Illinois**

On September 26, 2007, Glenn Cekus of the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section and Ted Deeke (Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team) reviewed the Mille Lacs Tribal Emergency Operations Plan for compliance with Section 303 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The plan was found to be in compliance with the law. Areas were noted where improvement was needed and the information passed on to the Emergency Manager.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

#### **First Responder Awareness Level Course, Mille Lacs Indian Reservation, Onamia, Minnesota**

On September 27, 2007, Glenn Cekus of the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section and Ted Deeke (Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team) presented a first responder awareness course, which was hosted by the Mille Lacs Reservation in Onamia, Minnesota. Eleven tribal members, representing the Housing Department, Department of Natural Resources, Emergency Management, and Tribal Clinic, attended. Those who successfully completed the course received a Certificate of Completion. A repeat of the course with tribal

police as the main participants is being considered for the future. This was the first time Mille Lacs has hosted the course.

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